

REMARKS

In the Advisor Action the Examiner has maintained the rejection of the claims under the first paragraph of §112. The Examiner has pointed to page 5 of the specification to support the position that the specification does not support rotation even when the support plate is removed from the housing seat. The Applicant believes that the Examiner is focusing on lines 11-14 of page 5. This sentence is describing an anti-rotation feature “when the isolator is charged and the support plate is in a fully extended position.” (emphasis added). This line refers to a feature of the isolator wherein the pistons seats within the housing as described on page 8 of the specification and shown on Figs. 4 and 5 of the drawings. This anti-rotation feature only occurs when the support plate is in a fully extended position. When the support plate and pistons are not seated within the housing, the plate can clearly rotate under rotational forces. The applicant submits that the claims comply with the first paragraph of §112.

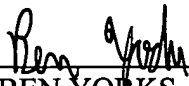
In the Advisory Action, the Examiner stated that the means for centering provided in Houghton was equivalent for purposes of §112. The applicant submits that Houghton does not anticipate claims 14 and 20 because this reference does not disclose the function recited in these claims. Claim 14 recites a support plate with means for seating the plate within an outer alignment means so that the support plate moves when unseated and does not rotate when seated in the housing. Furthermore, claim 20 recites a piston with alignment means so that the piston moves when unseated and does not rotate when seated in the housing. Houghton does not disclose the function of preventing rotation when seated in a housing. The applicant would like to emphasize that the means recited in claim 14 recite more than seating, but also includes an anti-rotational function. A function that is clearly not in Houghton.

The applicant requests that the Examiner enter this amendment and allow claims 1-26.

Respectfully submitted,
IRELL & MANELLA LLP

Dated: October 13, 2003

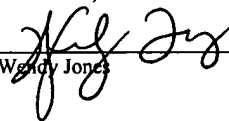
840 Newport Center Drive, Suite 400
Newport Beach, CA 92660
949-760-0991



BEN YORKS
Reg. No. 33,609

Certificate of Mailing

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being sent via U.S. Postal Service,
First Class Mail to Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450,
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on October 13, 2003.



Wendy Jones

10/13/03

Date